

To Mrs George Parker
in memory of her Uncle
Mr John Lloyd of Liverpool,
who departed this life,
24th Sep^r 1855.

REMINISCENCES
OF
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND,

IN AN
Historical and Descriptive Poem,

With Explanatory Notes.

ADDRESSED TO THE HON. JOSEPH POPE,
Speaker of the House of Assembly, &c., Prince Edward Island.

~~~~~  
BY WILLIAM POPE.  
~~~~~

LIVERPOOL:
PUBLISHED BY F. DUNSFORD,
SOUTH CASTLE STREET.

1848.

LP
F5324
P66

LYNACOTT

1. BOX 1040, 1st FLOOR, SOUTH CAVENDISH STREET.

Aug 1962

10/00

23/00

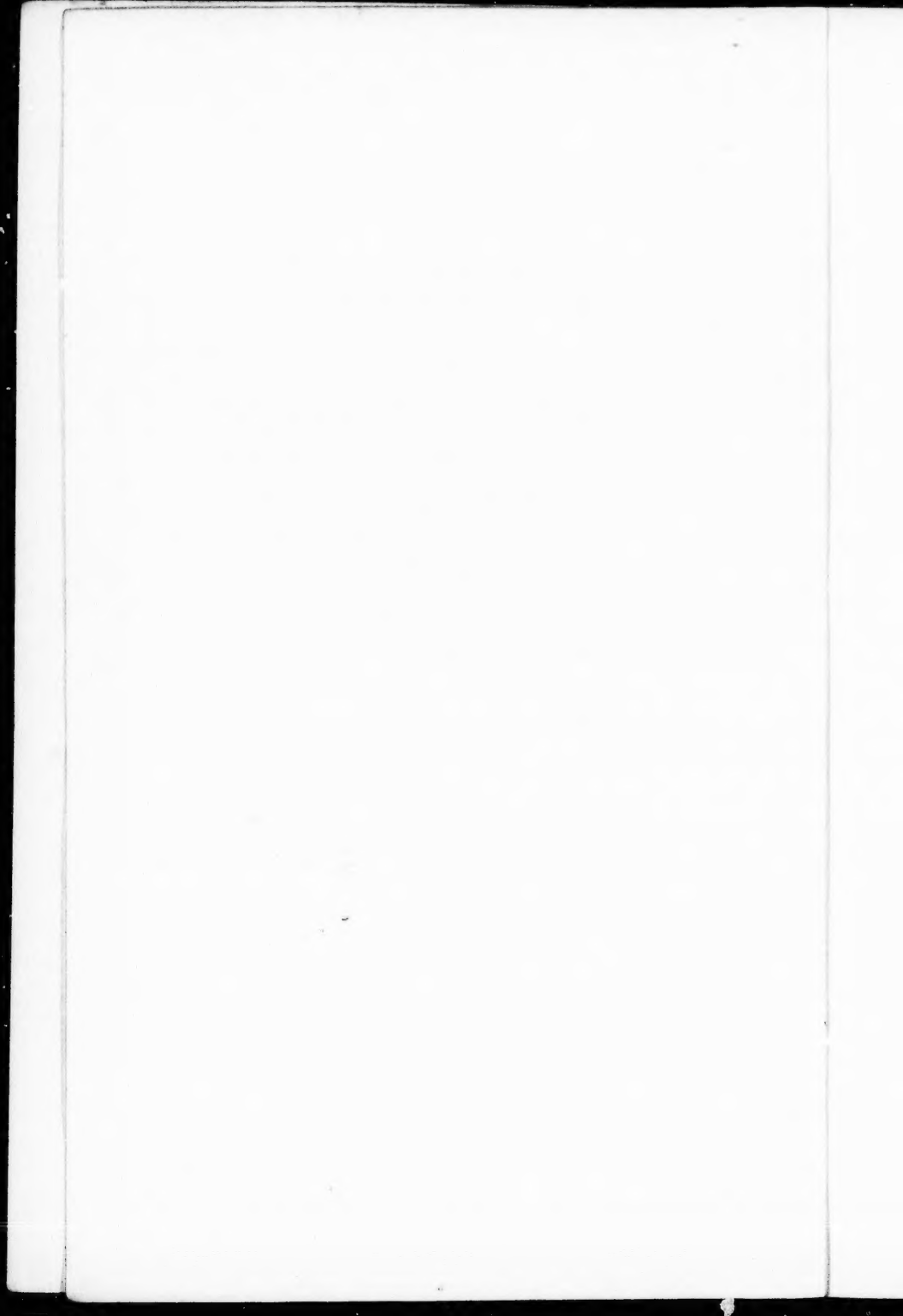
5/1/62

P R E F A C E .

—o—

This Poem having been addressed to a Brother some time since without the remotest idea of its appearing before the Public, the style of its commencement will be found epistolary and familiar. But the writer considers that he does not subject himself to the severity of Criticism, as it is printed merely for the perusal of his own immediate friends, and those who feel especially interested in the welfare of the country, which it faithfully, and, as he hopes, not unpleasingly describes.

3C 51405



TO THE
HON. JOSEPH POPE,
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

DEAR brother, though full oft inclined,
To prove I bear you still in mind;
As few there are beneath the skies
Whom I so love or highly prize.

Life's busy toil and anxious care,
To which mortality is heir,
Too oft prevent that intercourse,
Of pleasure, a delightful source :
And when nor toil, nor cares oppress ;
Our time engage ; the mind distress,
Procrastination, thief of time,
Prevents our writing prose or rhyme.
Till through protracted long delay,
The inclination dies away.

Yet while my memory holds its seat,
Although on earth we never meet,
Remembered well shall be the time,
Together spent in youthful prime.

Those days like other days are past ;
Their joys and sorrows could not last ;
To us they as a shadow seem,
And life itself is but a dream.

Nor can I that sweet Isle forget ;
It lives in my affections yet,
Which Cabot ⁽¹⁾ of immortal fame
First found, and gave a sacred name.
As on the deck the veteran stood,
With joy the sylvan land he viewed :
As when the mighty chieftain gains
The Alpine brow, and views the plains,
And Carthaginian bands descry,
The distant land of luxury—

Neptune's brave sons see with surprise
A landscape fair 'neath azure skies :
Bright contrast to that barren shore, ⁽²⁾
Just left behind and found before.
In her best robes of summer green,
How fair and lovely was the scene !
The stately forest newly dress'd,
As if to meet her Eastern guest ;
And harbours ⁽³⁾ of majestic form,
Their barques to shelter from the storm :
The moose ⁽⁴⁾ fleet rangers of the wood,
Supply nutritious grateful food ;
With birds as fine in form and size,
As those beneath yon orient skies ;
The lovely streams with trout abound,
And noble sturgeon here are found ;

The cod and mackarel crowd the coast,
And herring like a mighty host;
While salmon sport in royal pride, ⁽⁵⁾
And through the limpid waters glide.
Fair crystal streams in plenty found,
Arise and fertilize the ground;
As onward in their course they tend,
And with the mighty waters blend.
No land can boast more rich supply,
That e'er was found beneath the sky;
Nor purer streams have ever flowed,
Since heaven that bounteous gift bestowed.

My soul adore His sacred Name,
From whom alone those blessings came:

Whose bounties equally appear,
In east or western hemisphere.

Though winter's long, and storms severe,
They purify the atmosphere,
Till summer's balmy breezes blow,
And health and happiness bestow.
Here lovely Hebe might reside,
In vernal bloom, and youthful pride.

And though no lofty mountains rise,
In grandeur towering to the skies;
With awful majesty appear,
And hoary locks perpetual wear;
Nor fearful glens, nor caves abound,
As in romantic lands are found,

Here hill and dale attract the sight,
 And mountains of less soaring height ;
 And shady grove, and fertile field,
 Charm with delight, and plenty yield :—
 Of all the Islands in the west,
 To me the fairest and the best.

But States and Kingdoms rise and fall,
 Mutation is the lot of all.
 The warlike Indians once possessed
 The Empire of the distant West.
 Mysterious people ! ⁽⁶⁾ whence they came,
 Their origin and ancient name,
 Are far beyond our utmost ken :—
 Suffice to say, that they were men.

Their courage great, they knew no fear,
Were active as the forest deer;
In fortitude were ne'er surpassed,
Nor will while time itself shall last:
Their pride had never been subdued,
By mean or abject servitude.
Yet where the light of truth ne'er shone,
There happiness is scarcely known.
Vindictive to the last degree,
(The Cause and proof of misery);
As wild as forest beasts that prowl,
Their passions scarcely knew control;
Nor e'er did peaceful arts engage
The simple youth, or veteran sage:
In savage independent pride,
From age to age they lived and died.

But Gaul its Empire now extends,
 And Western Regions with it blends:
 Our Island owns its sovereign sway, ⁽⁷⁾
 And savage customs pass away.
 The forest now becomes subdued;
 And where the birch and maple stood:
 And graceful beech, and spruce combine
 With stately oak, and lofty pine,—
 On hill and far extended plain,
 Are meadows fair, and golden grain.
 While mansions in succession rise
 Of lofty or of meaner size,
 Where fertile rivers gently flow, ⁽⁸⁾
 And bays indent the coast below.
 How beautiful did those shores appear
 When winds were hushed & skies were clear:

Fancy must fail e'er to supply
Those fairy scenes that met the eye.
The sacred temple now is raised ;
Jehovah sought ; His goodness praised ;
And Indian tribes are taught the name
Of Him, from whom their blessings came.

But war, fell war, what hast thou done
In every clime beneath the sun ?
Myriads destroyed without just cause ;
Trampled on heaven's most sacred laws ;
Regardless of the orphan's cry,
The mother's tears, the widow's sigh ;
Monarchs' dethroned ; laid Empires waste ;
Plundered a world, and man disgraced.

Demon of hell, mankind to thee,
Owe half their present misery.
Again thy horrors reach that shore,
Too oft their sad abode before,
Where foemen fell in battle slain,
Through direful hate or sordid gain;
And mighty silence oft they broke
By demon sound of Indian whoop,
Who, falcon-like, pounced on their prey,
And slew or bore their prize away:
Where warlike Gauls and Britons met,
Nor unsubdued their passions yet;
Once more their banners are unfurled,
And war afflicts the Western world
Quebec and Louisburgh must yield,
When British armies take the field;

And British ships long known to fame,
Sustain in fight the British name.
Acadia with the neighbouring coast,
And our loved Isle to Gaul are lost.

If vast the sins of nations are,
Britons possess an ample share :
Though brave in war, by land and sea,
And often crowned by victory,
Stern truth demands, confess we must,⁽⁹⁾
Their cause has not been always just.
Oh ! could we hear their tale of woes
From where the sacred Ganges flows,
Or India's plains their story tell
Of Chieftains slain where thousands fell,

Of plundered wealth, of Empire lost
 (Britannia's shame, and Asia's cost)
 Britons scarce guiltless would appear,
 Nor unimpeached their character.

As Colonists they stand confessed,
 Most enterprizing and the best:
 Hardy, robust, inured to toil,
 They cultivate the grateful soil,
 Till desert wilds beneath their hand
 Become like Goshen's fertile land.
 Commercial like their parent state,
 Whose enterprize they emulate,
 Just laws and institutions free,
 Proclaim them sons of liberty.

Such is Prince Edward's noble race,
Who ne'er their father-land disgrace ;
And distant far be that sad day,
When their just fame shall pass away.

Dear land, farewell ! my feet no more,
Shall tread on thy delightful shore ;
No more shall I that landscape see,
Which oft was viewed and dear to me ;
Where years were spent, for ever past,
Where willingly I'd spend the last.
My memory loves on thee to dwell,
Beloved Isle, again farewell !

NOTES.



N O T E S .

NOTE I.

"Which Cabot of immortal fame,

"First found and gave a sacred name."

(See Page 7.)

THIS lovely Island appears to have been discovered by JOHN CABOT,* an English merchant, but a Venetian by birth. Columbus having in

* John Cabot's son, Sebastian Cabot, a native of Bristol, was the principal navigator of the family, and by some historians is supposed to have made those discoveries without being accompanied by his father, to whom the commission for exploring distant regions was granted by the Sovereign.

the year 1492 found a new world, or at least an island or two on the other side of the Atlantic, near the vast continent of America, a desire was shewn on the part of enterprising men to explore distant regions, among whom Cabot became eminently distinguished. Having obtained the sanction of His Majesty King Henry the VIth, he fitted out several vessels for a voyage of discovery, and after having efficiently manned his little fleet, at least so far as numbers were concerned, he set sail from Bristol in May 1497, with a view it is said of finding a shorter passage to India. His first discovery we are informed was Newfoundland; from which circumstance it received that very appropriate name. A few days after leaving those shores he fell in with Prince Edward Island, to which he gave the name of St. John, having found it on the 24th

June, St. John the Baptist's day. This name it bore until many years after it became a British Colony. But as the name of a neighbouring province was changed from Acadia to that of *Nova Scotia*, it was thought that a change from St. John to *Nova Erin* would be appropriate for the Island; and an Act of the Colonial Legislature was passed to that effect, but was disallowed by the King in Council. Another Act was subsequently passed for its being called Prince Edward Island, in compliment to Prince Edward Duke of Kent, father of Her present Majesty, which received the approbation of Royalty and became law in 1799. Gesner in his *History of New Brunswick* recently published, gives it as his opinion that Cabot first discovered a part of Labrador and Newfoundland immediately afterwards. But admitting this to

be correct, it appears to be beyond all doubt
that the discovery of Prince Edward Island
must be attributed to Cabot.

NOTE II.

"Bright contrast to that barren shore.

"Just left behind and found before."

(See Page 8.)

The shores of Prince Edward Island form a striking and beautiful contrast to those of Newfoundland. The latter appear wild and forbidding, but on sailing round the former, especially in the months of June and July, the scene is truly delightful. The red cliffs; the numerous bays and inlets; the extended and richly dressed forests, approaching even to the beautiful waters by which the Island is surrounded, together with its general appearance of extreme fertility, must have struck its first visitors with pleasing astonishment and delight.

NOTE III.

"And harbours of majestic form,

"Their barques to shelter from the storm."

(See Page 8.)

The term "majestic" will not be considered extravagant when it is known that the Harbour in Cardigan Bay, generally called by the name of Three Rivers, which is sheltered by Panmure Island, is one of the finest in the world, and is capable of containing in perfect safety the entire of the British Navy;—and that the Harbour of Charlotte Town is scarcely in any respect inferior. The latter is immediately connected with the capital from which it derives its name, and is formed by three beautiful rivers, the Hillsborough, the Elliot and the York. Like

the former Harbour it is approachable at any time of tide, and so sheltered as to render shipwreck quite impossible. Besides these the Harbours of the Island are numerous, commodious, and extensive.

NOTE IV.

"The moose fleet rangers of the wood."

(See Page 8.)

The moose deer, which for ages were inhabitants of the Island, have long since been entirely cut off, but many are yet to be found in the sister provinces.

NOTE V.

"While salmon sport in royal pride, &c."

(See Page 9.)

Few parts of the world are so wonderfully supplied with fish. The Rivers and Harbours abound with them, and also the banks on the Coast. It is to be regretted that extensive fisheries have not been established, where opportunities are thus afforded for the profitable employment of capital. The Americans are to be seen along the Coast in all directions, fishing occasionally close to our Harbours, in direct violation of the treaty—a treaty which our Government made, either in great ignorance, or with a perfect disregard to the welfare of our Colonies, and which is suffered to be violated with impunity.

NOTE VI.

"Mysterious people! whence they came,

"Their origin and ancient name."

(See Page 11.)

The origin of these remarkable people, or of whom they are the immediate descendants, is a subject which has long engaged the attention of men distinguished both for learning and genius. Various have been the opinions formed, and among others that of their being of *Jewish* extraction. "Adair," who is no mean authority, having resided with them for many years, informs us that there is scarcely a rite, ceremony, or observance connected with the history of the Israelites that is not attended to by either one or other of their tribes; and that a part of their *language* appears to be of *Hebrew* origin,

especially the *names* given to the *Supreme Being*. "Adair's" account has been most amply confirmed to me by a gentleman with whom I had the pleasure of being intimately acquainted during my residence in British America. This gentleman in early life had been engaged by the British Government for some years as a Commissioner among the Indians in those countries now called the United States ; and was subsequently a member of His Majesty's Council in the Province in which he resided. What made his statements to me the more interesting was the period to which they referred being of such an early date. His age when I last had the pleasure of his company was above ninety years, but Time appeared to have made little or no inroad on his noble mind.

There is one thing which appears to have perplexed most, if not all writers on this subject, which is, "how came these people in America?" For my own part I see no difficulty in the matter. It has been supposed that they crossed over at Behring's Straits. Of this there is at least a possibility; and that those who inhabited the far north did so is extremely probable. As to others, is it not possible that they went over from Europe and Africa? Who can prove that no enterprising persons ever sailed forth in search of distant lands before Columbus and Cabot, merely because it is not recorded? To say nothing of the hand of Providence in the settlement of the vast and fertile continent of America. Is it not very probable that many families have been driven

off in vessels from the eastern side of the Atlantic through heavy and continued gales, and carried to those shores from which they have not had the means of departing. To shew the possibility of such occurrences, it may not be improper to state that I have known at least two instances of vessels when about to enter the Port of St. John's Newfoundland to which they were bound, having been driven by heavy gales eastward, until they made the shores of Old England. It is worthy of remark that the Indians have a tradition that their forefathers came from beyond the Great Waters ; and in addition to this, it is not likely much will ever be known with absolute certainty.

NOTE VII.

"Our Island owns its sovereign sway,

"And savage customs pass away."

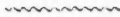
(See Page 13.)

This was only to a limited extent. A considerable change certainly did take place. The Aborigines of the country became nominally Christians; and the form of religious worship was established in their land. But beyond this very little was effected. They continued the same wandering mode of life, and for many years after this time the French being often at war with the British in North America, the Indians were found ready to assist them, and were guilty of awful acts of cruelty. In order the more effectually to accomplish their designs

against the English, the French with more policy than good taste, married among these wild people of the forest, by which means not a few of them became nearly as far removed from civilization as those with whom they associated.

Although the wars alluded to were carried on on the Continent, the above remarks apply to the Indians of the Island, as they were not stationary, but were often found in the sister province, which then bore the name of 'Acadia.' Many of the first British settlers in those parts were cruelly slain by the Micmac and other Tribes; and many endured great suffering. But the persevering and heroic spirit which has ever characterized the Anglo-Saxon race, overcame every difficulty, and finally subdued both

the Indian and the Gaul. Perhaps it is but justice to add that on some occasions the English were provoked to acts of fearful retaliation.



NOTE VIII.

"Where fertile rivers gently flow,
"And bays indent the coast below."

(See Page 13.)

The intelligent reader will easily understand that in new Countries settlements are first made on the banks of fertile Rivers, and on the margin of the Bays and Harbours on the Coast. The reasons for this are so obvious as to render a statement of them here quite unnecessary.

NOTE IX.

"Stern truth demands, confess we must,

"Their cause has not been always just."

(See Page 16.)

By many the justice or lawfulness of war has been questioned, and by others positively denied; but of the conduct of those who enter into the territory of strangers, without invitation, or consent; and on receiving an insult, real or imaginary, plunder their wealth and take possession of their country, there can be but one opinion formed by men of common sense. That such circumstances are often overruled for the general good by an all wise Providence we readily admit; but we are not to "sanctify the means by the goodness of the end."

